

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled herein without prejudice, and claims 2-6, 8-15, and 17-19 have been amended to place these claims in better U.S. form. Accordingly, claims 2-6 and 8-19 are currently pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 6, 8-12, 15, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and for indicating that claims 17-19 would be allowable if amended to overcome the § 112 rejections. Applicant has amended claims 17-19 to address the Examiner's § 112 concerns, and has rewritten claims 5, 8, and 15 in independent form pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 6, 9-12, and 16 have not been rewritten in independent form, as these claims depend from now allowable claims 5, 8, and 15. Additionally, claims 2, 13, 14, and 18 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 8 and, as such, claims 2, 3, 4, 9-14, and 17-19 now depend from allowable claim 8.

Otherwise, Applicant respectfully traverses all claim rejections for the reasons that follow:

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 17-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17-19 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended these claims to address the Examiner's § 112, second paragraph, concerns. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7, 13, AND 14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,655,312 to Erb (hereinafter "Erb") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,921,175 to Bates (hereinafter "Bates") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,588,362 to Sugiyama (hereinafter "Sugiyama"); and claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Erb, Bates, and Sugiyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,391,638 to Ebneter (hereinafter "Ebneter").

Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby mooting the rejections of these claims. Furthermore, as described above, claims 2-4, 13, and 14 have been amended herein to depend from claim 8, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable over Bates.

For at least these reasons, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 1-4, 7, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

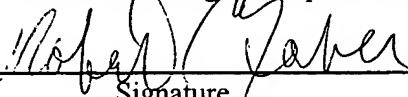
III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 22, 2004

Robert C. Faber

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



Signature

November 22, 2004

Date of Signature

RCF:BND

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Faber
Registration No.: 24,322
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700